

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /066 W  
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AMCONSUL PONTA DELGAGA  
USMISSION USNATO  
DIA WASHDC  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER  
USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL  
COMUSOORAZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 2935

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, PO  
SUBJECT: PSD NATIONAL COUNCIL SWEARS FEALTY TO SA CARNEIRO

REF: LISBON 2774

SUMMARY: THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY NATIONAL COUNCIL  
MET APRIL 15 AND 16 IN AN EMOTIONAL CLIMATE OF  
CONFRONTATION BETWEEN SA CARNEIRO AND PARTY MODERATES.  
IN ITS FINAL COMMUNIQUE, THE COUNCIL BLESSED SA CARNEIRO'S  
POSSIBLE RETURN AS PARTY PRESIDENT AT A NATIONAL CONGRESS WITHIN  
THREE MONTHS, AND DESIGNATED AN INTERIM DIRECTIVE COMMITTEE,  
INCLUDING SA CARNEIRO LOYALISTS TO REPLACE THE SOUSA  
FRANCO-LED NATIONAL POLITICAL COMMISSION. END SUMMARY.  
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1. EMOTIONAL CLIMATE: THE PSD NATIONAL COUNCIL MET IN  
LISBON APRIL 15 AND 16 IN AN EMOTIONALLY CHARGED ATMOSPHERE  
OF CONFRONTATION. TENSIONS WERE FED BY:  
--SA CARNEIRO-INSPIRED PRESS REPORTS THAT WARNED THAT HE  
WOULD QUIT THE PARTY IF HE DID NOT GET HIS WAY.  
--A POLITICAL COMMITTEE REPORT TO NATIONAL COMMITTEE

MEMBERS WHICH ACCUSED SA CARNEIRO AND HIS FOLLOWERS OF SEEKING TO MANIPULATE THE PARTY FROM WITHOUT AND CRITICIZED HIS OPPOSITION TO THE PRESIDENT AND DEMANDS FOR EARLY ELECTIONS, A REFERENDUM, AND IMMEDIATE CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION AS COUP INSPIRING.

--DOZENS OF SA CARNEIRO FOLLOWERS WHO FILLED THE COUNCIL MEETING SITE WITH SHOUTS OF UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT FOR SA CARNEIRO AND OF REPUDIATION FOR THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE. THE FIRST TWO HOURS OF THE COUNCIL MEETING WERE SPENT READING TELEGRAMS OF SUPPORT FOR SA CARNEIRO FROM PARTY MEMBERS AROUND THE COUNTRY.

2. SA CARNEIRO DRAWS THE LINES: IN CONTRAST TO HIS PASSIVE ROLE AT THE PARTY'S NATIONAL CONGRESS IN OPORTO LAST JANUARY, SA CARNEIRO TOOK CHARGE OF THE COUNCIL MEETING AND ACTIVELY REFUTED POLITICAL COMMITTEE CHARGES, ACCUSED THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE OF PROVOKING A FALSE CRISIS, AND CHARGED SOME PSD MEMBERS WITH SEEKING TO DESTROY THE PARTY FROM WITHIN. THE ISSUE, HE SAID, IS NOT OVER PSD STRATEGY, BUT RATHER "WHETHER THE CURRENT POLITICAL COMMISSION WILL STAY IN OFFICE OR WHETHER I RETAIN MY OWN FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION."

3. THE OUTCOME: IN THE FACE OF HEAVY PRESSURE TO REACH AN AGREEMENT SATISFACTORY TO SA CARNEIRO, THE NATIONAL COUNCIL AGREED TO A FINAL COMMUNIQUE WHICH:  
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--COMMENDED THE JOB DONE BY SOUSA FRANCO AND THE OUTGOING POLITICAL COMMITTEE;

--NOTED SEVERAL ERRORS AND MISSTATEMENTS REGARDING SA CARNEIRO IN THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE ANALYSIS OF THE PARTY'S INTERNAL CRISIS;

--CALLED FOR A NATIONAL PARTY CONGRESS IN THREE MONTHS TO ELECT A NEW POLITICAL COMMITTEE;

--DESIGNATED AN INTERIM DIRECTIVE COMMITTEE MADE UP OF A NEW PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY GROUUU, THE PRESIDENTS OF THE OPORTO, BRAGA, METROPOLITAN LISBON, AND RURAL LISBON DISTRICT POLITICAL COMMITTEES, TWO SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES, AND A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE AZORES AND MADEIRA.

--CHARACTERIZED SA CARNEIRO'S RETURN TO THE PSD PRESIDENCY AT THE PLANNED NATIONAL CONGRESS AS "INDISPENSABLEMZ

4. COMMENT: SA CARNEIRO HAS ONCE AGAIN DEMONSTRATED HIS CONTROL OVER THE PARTY RANK AND FILE, AND APPEARS TO HAVE WON A CONVINCING VICTORY AT THE NATIONAL COUNCIL. WHILE THE MAJORITY OF THE INTERIM DIRECTIVE COMMITTEE HAS NOT YET BEEN DESIGNATED, ITS GERRYMANDERED REPRESENTATION CLEARLY

INDICATES WHO WILL BE IN CONTROL FROM BEHIND  
THE SCENES. PSD DEPUTY AND JORNAL NOVO EDITOR HELENA ROSETA  
WROTE APRIL 17 THAT CONDITIONS WERE NOW APPROPRIATE FOR SA  
CARNEIRO TO RETURN AS PARTY PRESIDENT. PSD MODERATES SOUSA  
FRANCO AND SERVULO CORREIA LOST CONTROL OF THE PARTY AS THEY  
PREDICTED (REFTEL). THE MODERATES WERE SUBJECT TO HEAVY  
PRESSURES FROM SA CARNEIRO SUPPORTERS TO BE  
CONCILIATORY THUS AVOIDING A PARTY  
SPLIT.

5. THE PSD IS NOW IN THE SAME HOBBOLED  
STATE AS IT WAS DURING THE PARTY'S  
NOVEMBER-JANUARY INTERNAL CRISIS. SA CARNEIRO, ON THE OTHER  
HAND, RETAINS HIS FLEXIBILITY AS AN OUTSIDE OPERATOR FOR  
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SEVERAL MORE MONTHS WITH THE ADDED IMPORTANCE OF A MAN ABOUT TO  
REINHERIT PORTUGAL'S SECOND LARGEST PARTY.  
BLOOMFIELD

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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20 Mar 2014  
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